



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 12.10.04

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HFD participates in toy drive

New, unwrapped toys will be accepted at all Houston fire stations through December 17. Donations will be donated to the Outreach Program, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt 501, (c) 3 organization serving the greater Harris County youth community.

Citizens are encouraged to make contact with the firefighters when dropping of the donations to ensure the donations are received and placed in a secure area.

The toys will not be given away until December 23, 2004 at 11 a.m. at the Pleasant Facility, located at 1305 Benson. There is not a waiting list for this toy drive. Families in need of assistance must bring identification, bags (i.e. plastic trash bags), and their children's social security cards. Please help encourage citizens not to bring their children with them to the give-a-way due to the possibility inclement weather conditions.

Lorugene Young, executive director of the Outreach Program, Inc., started the organization in 1985 and has consistently remained committed to combating youth drug use and crime through community programs and motivational meetings. Since then, the group has helped thousands of Harris County children receive free school supplies, clothes, toys and food. In 1997, Warner Cable named Young Hometown Hero of Harris County and awarded her organization a \$5000 donation.